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Specialty Crop County Estimates for 2002

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service released county estimates for the 2002 oilseeds and pulse crops. This is the fourth year of the data series. County-level data is not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Dry bean county estimates for Montana are published for the following classes: all, garbanzo, pinto, and other beans. Pinto bean production during 2002 was 287,000 cwt. for the state. **Carbon** county had the most pinto bean production in the state with 60,500 cwt. The second and third leading counties were **Dawson** and **Prairie** with 55,000 cwt. and 42,300 cwt. produced, respectively. The south-central district produced the largest crop of pinto beans followed by the northeastern district. As for garbanzo beans, **Roosevelt** County produced the most in 2002 at 25,600 cwt. The second leading county was **Sheridan** with 16,200 cwt of production. The northeastern district produced the most garbanzo beans in Montana.

Sheridan was the number one lentil producing county again in 2002, with 54,300 cwt. harvested. The number two county was **Roosevelt** with total production of 24,700 cwt., and third was **Daniels** county with 18,300 cwt. Growers from the northeastern district produced 74 percent of the state's lentils. Dry edible pea estimates indicate that **Roosevelt** county was the largest producer in 2002 with 44,900 cwt. grown, followed by **Sheridan** county at

34,600 cwt., and **Dawson** county at 21,600 cwt. Northeastern district farmers produced 73 percent of the state's dry peas. **Richland** was a leading county in Austrian winter pea production during 2002 with 2,900 cwt. Big Horn county was also a leading county but data was not published to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Sheridan was by far the largest canola producing county in 2002 with 10.4 million pounds, or 35 percent of the state's canola. The second largest county was **Daniels** with 4.6 million pounds produced, followed by **Valley** county with 2.9 million pounds. The northeastern district produced 75 percent of the crop. **Roosevelt** was the number one safflower producing county with 7.7 million pounds. The next leading county was **Richland** at 6.3 million pounds, followed by **Dawson's** production of 4.8 million pounds. Eighty-three percent of the state's safflower was produced in the northeast district.

Sheridan led the state in flaxseed production for 2002 at 78,500 bushels. The next largest county was **Valley** with 55,000 bushels, followed by **Roosevelt** County at 13,500 bushels. Ninety-one percent of the state's flaxseed was produced in the northeast district. The central district accounted for 48 percent of Montana's sunflower production. While the south-central district also produced a large amount of the sunflower crop, data was not published to avoid disclosing individual information. The leading mustard seed producing counties were **Sheridan** with 4.6 million pounds and **Valley** with 2.6 million pounds. Almost all of Montana's mustard seed was produced in the northeast district.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted acres, and harvested acres by county, district, and state levels are now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They are available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county

estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2002. Thanks to those who participated!

Montana April 1 Potato Stocks Up 1 Percent, U.S. Stocks Up 4 Percent

Montana potato producers held 1.8 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2003, up 1 percent from the previous year. Fifty-six percent of the 2002 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 54 percent last year.

The 15 major potato States held 125 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2003, up 4 percent from last year but 19 percent below a year ago. Storage accounts for 30 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance, at 286 million cwt, from the start of harvest in 2002 to April 1, is up 7 percent from the same period last year but 6 percent below two years ago. March disappearance was 38.9 million cwt, up 1 percent from a year ago but 12 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 23.9 million cwt, is up 2 percent from last year but 28 percent below two years ago.

Processors used 145 million cwt of 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago. March usage of 18.2 million cwt is 6 percent above last year but 8 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 31.9 million cwt to date.

Western States held 93.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 7 percent from last year but 21 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 9 percent from last year and Colorado's are up 30 percent. Washington's potato stocks are 2 percent above last year but Oregon's storage is down 12 percent. California's stocks are double last year and Montana's are up 1 percent.

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	56,700,000	acres	2002	2	6.0
Number of farms and ranches	28,000	farms/ranches	2002	31	1.3
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	1,785	million dollars	2001	34	0.9
Crops	657	million dollars	2001	34	0.7
Livestock	1,128	million dollars	2001	30	1.1
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	13	2.5
All Cows	1,420,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	9	3.4
Beef Cows	1,402,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	7	4.3
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	42	0.2
Cattle on Feed	70,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	21	0.5
All Sheep and Lambs	300,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	7	4.7
Hogs and Pigs	185,000	head	Dec. 1, 2002	25	0.3
All Chickens	480,000	birds	Dec. 1, 2002	39	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,490,000	head	2002	8	3.9
Lamb Crop	315,000	head	2002	4	7.2
Pig Crop	348,000	head	2002	27	0.3
Wool Production	2,691,000	pounds	2002	6	6.5
Egg Production	104,000,000	eggs	2002	39	0.1
Honey Production	8,442,000	pounds	2002	6	4.9
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	109,895,000	bushels	2002	4	6.8
Winter Wheat	21,000,000	bushels	2002	15	1.8
Durum Wheat	12,995,000	bushels	2002	2	16.4
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	75,900,000	bushels	2002	2	19.3
Barley	39,900,000	bushels	2002	3	17.6
Oats	2,695,000	bushels	2002	14	2.3
All Hay	4,620,000	tons	2002	13	3.1
Alfalfa Hay	2,940,000	tons	2002	10	4.0
Dry Beans, All	361,000	cwt	2002	10	1.2
Pinto Beans	287,000	cwt	2002	7	2.2
Garbanzo Beans	71,000	cwt	2002	5	8.5
Lentils	149,000	cwt	2002	4	5.9
Dry Edible Peas	205,000	cwt	2002	4	4.8
Austrian Winter Peas	20,000	cwt	2002	2	12.2
Potatoes--fall	3,224,000	cwt	2002	13	0.8
Sugar Beets	1,096,000	tons	2002	6	4.0
Flaxseed	195,000	bushels	2002	2	1.6
Corn for Grain	1,820,000	bushels	2002	41	1/
Corn for Silage	1,078,000	tons	2002	23	1.0
1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.					

Montana Red Meat Production Up 4 Percent

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2003, up 4 percent from March 2002 and down 2 percent from February 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, equal to that one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,150 pounds, increased 9 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 239 pounds, was up 8 pounds from last year.

March sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up from 200 head in March 2002. The average live weight remained the same, at 121 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.70 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the 3.68 billion pounds produced in March 2002. Beef production, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year.

Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, up 1 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 1,234 pounds, down 7 pounds from March a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.5 million pounds, 10 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 85,100 head, up 10 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 323 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.62 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.15 million head, 2 percent above March 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, up 1 pound from March a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 264,000 head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from March a year ago.

January - March red meat production was 11.27 billion pounds, virtually

unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was up 8 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 15 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 8 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.70 million head on April 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below April 1, 2002 and 7 percent below April 1, 2001.

The inventory included 6.72 million steers and steer calves, down 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.92 million head, down 9 percent from 2002.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.04 million, 5 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.98 million.

During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 276,000, 600-699 pounds were 390,000, 700-799 pounds were 744,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 632,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.80 million, 1 percent below 2002 and 6 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 62,000 during March, 10 percent below 2002 and 37 percent below 2001.

U.S. Egg Production Down 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.36 billion during March 2003, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type.

The total number of layers during March 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,181 eggs, down 1

percent from March 2002.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2003, totaled 338 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2003, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.87 billion eggs during March 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 315 million, was down slightly from a year ago.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production Up 1 Percent from the Previous Year

During the January-March 2003 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 84 million pounds of milk, up 1 million pounds from the previous quarter a year ago. The inventory of milk cows was 18,000 head, unchanged from the previous year.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 43.0 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.16 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from March 2002.

February revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from February 2002. The February revision represented a decrease of 8 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,664 pounds for March, 10 pounds above March 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 67,000 head more than March 2002, and 2,000 head more than February 2003.

Will the Farm Act Get Pulses Racing?

Dry peas, lentils, and small chickpeas - pulse crops - are relatively minor in acreage, supply, and use in the U.S. compared with corn, soybeans, and wheat. However, pulses could be poised for expansion due to their inclusion in the 2002 Farm Act.

New marketing loan benefits, combined with agronomic advantages and a growing number of processors, may increase the attractiveness of planting pulse crops, particularly in the Northern Great Plains. Accommodating increased supply is likely

to hinge on expanding current markets and creating new ones.

In the U.S., dry peas and lentils have traditionally been produced in the Palouse, an area centered along the borders of eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and northeast Oregon. Chickpeas, on the other hand, have long been grown in California. Since the mid-1990's, acreage of all 3 crops has expanded to the Northern Great Plains, with **North Dakota** emerging as the region's leader.

Processors, exporters, and industry representatives generally agree that if production of these commodities does

expand, it will likely occur in the Northern Great Plains rather in the Palouse, because of greater land availability, lower land costs, and flatter terrain. While production outside this region is possible, expansion will likely be constrained by the fact that pulses are cool-season crops. Pulse acreage may increase in Nebraska, **eastern Montana**, Colorado, and Wyoming, while Arizona and New Mexico could see greater acreage planted to chickpeas.

SOURCE: *Will the Farm Act Get Pulses Racing?* Gregory K. Price/AGO-296, November 2002, Economic Research Service/USDA.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Crop Production	Poultry PDI
Hay Stocks	Ag Prices
Winter Wheat Production	Hogs & Pigs
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